

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 /045 W

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5738

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, BGEN, CA

SUBJ: STRIKE AT UNITED AIRCRAFT OF CANADA

REF: MONTREAL A-155, OCT 3, 1974 AND PREVIOUS

1. STRIKE AT MONTREAL AREA UNITED AIRCRAFT OF CANADA (UAC) PLANTS WHICH STARTED JANUARY 7, 1974 REMAINS UNSETTLED. FOLLOWING ULTRA-BRIEF PRESS REPORTS THAT QUEBEC LABOR MINISTER JEAN COURNOYER WOULD END HIS DEPARTMENT'S MEDIATION EFFORTS ON DECEMBER 13 WHETHER THE STRIKE SETTLED OR NOT BY THEN. CONGEN DISCUSSED MATTER WITH TOP MONTREAL OFFICIAL OF QUEBEC LABOR MINISTRY (QLM).

2. WE WERE TOLD THAT OFFICIALS OF UAC AMERICAN PARENT (UAC OF HARTFORD) ARE NOW IN MONTREAL READYING FINAL OFFER TO STRIKERS. SOURCE CONFIDENT THAT OFFER WILL BE GENEROUS AND WILL LEAD TO SETTLEMENT OF ALL POINTS IN DISPUTE EXCEPT RAND FORMULA, WHICH UAC HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE. RAND FORMULA, WHICH IS STANDARD IN MOST QUEBEC LABOR CONTRACTS, PROVIDES FOR COMPULSORY UNION DUES CHECKOFF IN CERTAIN CASES.

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3. SOURCE STATED ANY ISSUES STILL UNSETTLED FOLLOWING UAC

FINAL OFFER WILL BE SUBMITTED TO CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF LABOR, AN OFFICIAL QLM GROUP CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR AND MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS. SOURCE FEELS THAT COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS MAY WELL END UP DEADLOCKED BUT THAT STRIKE WILL NEVERTHELESS END SOON. SOURCE SAID COURNOYER IS CONFIDENT STRIKE WILL NOT CONTINUE IF RAND FORMULA REMAINS ONLY POINT IN DISPUTE. HE ADDED THAT COURNOYER HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT UNITED AUTO WORKERS IN U.S. WILL NOT CONTINUE SUPPORT OF QUEBEC LOCAL TO PROLONG STRIKE IF ALL ISSUES SETTLED EXCEPT RAND FORMULA.

4. WHEN QUERIED WHAT ALTERNATIVE REMAINED IF SETTLEMENT NOT REACHED THROUGH ABOVE EFFORTS, SOURCE REPLIED ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE LEGISLATION. HE ADDED THAT QUEBEC GOVERNMENT RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION BECAUSE OF ADVERSE EFFECT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THIS PROVINCE.
HARPER

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